



## SARA JANE SHANAHAN

PARTNER, LITIGATION DEPARTMENT CHAIR

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Sara Jane Shanahan is chair of the firm's Litigation Department and co-chair of the Business Litigation Practice Group.

Her practice focuses on complex business litigation and insurance coverage disputes. Sara represents a variety of clients such as hedge funds and investment managers, generic pharmaceutical manufacturers, national retailers, insurers, insureds, shareholders of closely-held corporations and officers and directors of public corporations.

Prior to joining the firm in December 2008, Sara was partner at Griesinger, Tighe, & Maffei, LLP and junior partner at Hale and Dorr LLP. After law school, Sara clerked for the Hon. Nathaniel M. Gorton, U.S. District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

### PRACTICE AREAS

Alternative Dispute  
Resolution

Business Litigation

Litigation

Professional Fiduciary,  
Estate, & Probate Litigation

### INDUSTRIES

Finance

Health Services

Manufacturing, Distribution  
& Logistics

Retail & Shopping Centers

Technology

### EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D.,  
cum laude, 1994

Bowdoin College, B.A.,  
Economics with a  
Mathematics minor, summa  
cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa,  
1991

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts (1994)

U.S. District Court for the  
District of Massachusetts

### EXPERIENCE

- Hedge funds and the investment manager with regard to claims against their third party administrator
- National retailer in arbitration and litigation with third party business brokers
- Hospital patent-owner in licensing dispute with medical device manufacturer
- Generic drug manufacturers in False Claims Act and products liability litigation
- Insurers and insureds in complex insurance coverage disputes
- Minority shareholders in closely-held corporations regarding breach of fiduciary duty and voting trust claims
- Homeowners in arbitrations regarding construction disputes
- Successfully obtained summary judgment on securities fraud claims for defendant; Federal District Court denied plaintiffs' motion for class certification
- Internet operating and development company prevailing on all claims in two week jury trial regarding insurance coverage

### ACCOLADES

- Ranked in Chambers USA for Litigation: General Commercial – Massachusetts
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*®
  - Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Insurance, Boston (2020)
- Included in *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*
  - Top Women in Law
- Included in *Massachusetts Super Lawyers*
  - Top 50 Women in Law
  - Top 100 New England

(1996)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
First Circuit (1999)

- Perlman Service Award from the fellows of the Litigation Counsel of America (LCA)
- Listed in *2019 Benchmark Litigation*

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Using or Defeating COVID-19 Liability Waivers: The 60-Minute Lawyer,” panelist, MCLE, September 10, 2020
- “Bad Faith Claims Handling – G.L. c. 93A and G.L. c. 176D,” *Massachusetts Liability Insurance Manual*, chap. 13, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2017 with 2020 supplement, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc., May 5, 2020
- “Year in Review: Top 10 Cases,” panelist and conference co-chair, MCLE 19th Annual Business Litigation Conference, February 2020
- “Ch. 176D Claims in Commercial Litigation: When Does Liability Become “Reasonably Clear?,” speaker, Boston Bar Association, November 2019
- “Trending Issues in Business Litigation, Intellectual Property and Bankruptcy: Insights from Leading Attorney Practitioners,” moderator, MBA Fourth Annual Complex Commercial Litigation Conference, April 23, 2019
- “Year in Review: Top 10 Cases,” panelist and conference co-chair, MCLE 18th Annual Business Litigation Conference, February 2019
- “Unexpected Liabilities and Exposures,” panelist, MCLE 17th Annual Business Litigation Conference, February 2018
- “Bad Faith Claims Handling – G.L. c. 93A and G.L. c. 176D,” *Massachusetts Liability Insurance Manual* 2017, chap. 13, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc., 2017
- “5 Risk Management Practices Innovators Should Follow,” Xconomy.com October 2015
- “Evidence: Strategic Considerations for Summary Judgment and Trial”, Boston Bar Association, January 2015
- “Social Media: When to use it, When to Lose it – The Legal Implications of Social Media for Law Firms and Clients,” Women in E Discovery Panel, June 2014
- “Avoiding Expensive Litigation after the Deal is Done,” *Massachusetts Family Business*, July 2013
- “Service providers should review their own contracts” *Boston Business Journal*, June 2013
- “Cornwell ruling a warning to investment managers,” *Boston Business Journal*, March 2013
- “Cornwell’s \$50M Jury Award Wake-Up Call For Advisors,” *Private Wealth Magazine*, February 2013
- “Cyberbullying and Social Media Misuse: Prevention and Response,” Magna Online Seminars, August 2012
- “RE and Social Media: A Legal Perspective,” *The Real Reporter*, July 2012
- “Social Networking Policies: Mitigating Risks and Reaping Rewards,” ALM General Counsel Conference, June 2012
- “How to Protect Your Students from Cyberbullying,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 2012
- “Why You Should Protect Your Employees’ Twitter Accounts,” *CFO*, December 2011
- “Social Media Policies and Practices Your Company Can ‘Like’,” moderator, New England Legal

Foundation Fall Breakfast Program, October 2011

- “Privacy and Privilege When Communicating With Clients Via Email,” speaker, Boston Bar Association Luncheon, October 2011
- “Slow the Trigger When Firing Over Twitter,” *CFO*, September 2011
- “Litigation Potluck: How to Avoid Litigation and How to Manage It Effectively If You Can’t,” panelist, Association of Corporate Counsel Northeast Chapter, July 2011
- “Preparing Your Company for Social Media Challenges,” panelist, 23rd Annual Corporate Counsel Conference East Coast, June 2011
- “To Preserve and Protect: Warding Off Wiki-Like Attacks,” *Corporate Counsel*, January 2011
- “Directors Urged to Submit Comment to SEC on Whistleblower Provisions,” with Jason Drori, *Corporate Board Member*, December 2010
- “Warding Off Shareholder Derivative Suits: Diligence and Faithfulness Are the Keys,” *Corporate Counsel*, August 2010
- “Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Decision Supports Public’s Rights in the Waterfront,” Sherin and Lodgen LLP Client Advisory, August 2010
- “Looking Inward,” *Corporate Counsel*, June 2010
- “One Size Does Not Fit All: Approaches to Internal Investigations,” speaker, Association of Corporate Counsel Northeast Chapter, March 2010
- “Conflicting Decisions Lead to Uncertainty for Massachusetts Companies and Auditors Alike,” *SumNews*, Winter 2009
- “View from Both Sides of the Bench,” introduction, Boston Bar Association, January 2009
- “Tensions are rising from IRS victory in Textron case,” *WebCPA.com*, November 2009
- “Another View: The Eroding Attorney-Client Privilege,” *The New York Times DealBook*, November 2009
- “Director and Officer Liability in the Aftermath of Fraud,” Suffolk University Law School Seminar, May 2009
- “Attorney-Client Privilege for In-House Counsel,” client seminar, April 2009
- “How Private is that Email to the Contract Attorney in Mumbai? Attorney-Client Privilege in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” with Edward S. Cheng, Association of Corporate Counsel Northeast Chapter, February 2009
- “Bad Faith Claims Handling – G.L. c. 93A and G.L. c. 176D,” *Massachusetts Liability Insurance Manual 2009 Supplement*, chap. 14, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, 2004, 2009

## MEMBERSHIPS

- Boston Bar Foundation Society of Fellows
- Boston Bar Association
  - Council, Member, elected to serve three-year term, Fall 2013 – Summer 2016
  - Administration of Justice Section
    - Co-chair, Fall 2011 – Summer 2014
    - Member, 2009-2014
- Joint Bar Committee on Judicial Appointments

- Litigation Counsel of America
  - Fellow
- Women's Bar Association
  - Women's Leadership Initiative, 2017-2018

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Boston Bar Foundation Society of Fellows
- Girl Scouts Troop Leader, 2011 – 2016
  - Co-Service Unit Coordinator, 2016 – 2018
- Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
  - Board of Directors
- The New England Legal Foundation
  - Massachusetts Advisory Council
    - Member
- The Wellesley Club
  - Board of Directors
  - Secretary, 2014 – 2018
- Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts
  - Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham (HHU) Master Plan Committee, Co-chair, 2016 – 2017
  - HHU Master Plan Committee Final Report, Co-author, March 2017